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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR 14 May 1952

SUBJECT Leuna and Piesteritz Methane Pilot Plants

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25X1A

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25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The DLU has two pilot plants producing acetylene from methane, both working according to the electric arc method. One of the plants is in the Leuna works, the other one in the Piesteritz Chemical Works (formerly Stickstoffwerke).
2. The Piesteritz pilot plant was built by Dipl. Ing. (fnu) Oschatz and Dipl. Ing. (fnu) Boesler; both men are connected with the Konstruktions- und Ingenieur-Büro (KIB) Leuna.* The plant started to produce small amounts of acetylene in September or October 1951.
3. When Dr. Heinrich Elm returned to the Leuna works from the USSR in June 1951,** he was first assigned to the analytical laboratory of the Leuna works. In October 1951, the Russian Directorate General of Leuna assigned him to the construction of a pilot plant for the production of acetylene from methane; the plant was to be the same type as the one in Piesteritz. By the end of 1951, Elm had completed the plant to the point where small-scale production of acetylene was possible. He is now improving and enlarging the plant to increase production.
4. High-purity soot which is put out as a by-product of acetylene production is to go to the Buna Works, Schkopau. To date, Elm's plant has produced four to five tons of soot which have not yet been sent to Schkopau.

25X1A

Comment: Not a part of the Leuna works).

Comment: Elm was taken to the USSR in October 1946).

25X1A

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CLASSIFICATION

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No Change in Class. ☐

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